

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) Process for the manufacture of an article comprising a rigid support element of which a "show" face is partially covered by a supple covering, the process comprising the following steps:

- connecting the covering to a relatively rigid holding element having its own shape and a strength such that it is not substantially deformed under predetermined foaming conditions, in order substantially to maintain the covering in a predetermined shape,

- placing the support element and the covering connected to the holding element in a foaming mould and, since the support element has a hollow region delimited by a peripheral rim, disposing a docking surface of the covering opposite the peripheral rim,

- introducing foam into the mould, between the support element and the covering, under the predetermined conditions, in order to connect the covering and the support element, wherein the holding element is thermoformable, and:

- the covering is connected to the holding element and, simultaneously, the holding element is thermoformed, in order to confer on the covering the predetermined shape,

- then the docking surface of the covering is placed opposite the peripheral rim of the support element, in the foaming mould.

2. (original) Process according to claim 1, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only locally, at the periphery of the covering.

3-4. (cancelled)

5. (new) Process for the manufacture of an article comprising a rigid support element of which a "show" face is partially covered by a supple covering, the process comprising the following steps:

- forming a complex by connecting the face of the covering opposed to said show face to a relatively rigid holding element having its own shape and a strength such that it is not substantially deformed under predetermined foaming conditions, in order substantially to maintain the covering in a predetermined shape,

- placing the support element and the complex in a foaming mould and, since the support element has a hollow region

delimited by a peripheral rim, disposing a docking surface of the covering opposite the peripheral rim,

- introducing foam into the mould, between the support element and the complex, under the predetermined conditions, in order to connect the covering and the support element.

6. (new) Process according to claim 5, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only at the periphery of the covering.

7. (new) Process according to claim 5, wherein the holding element is thermoformable, and:

- the covering is connected to the holding element and, simultaneously, the holding element is thermoformed, in order to confer on the covering the predetermined shape,

- then the docking surface of the covering is placed opposite the peripheral rim of the support element, in the foaming mould.

8. (new) Process according to claim 5, wherein the holding element is manufactured substantially in accordance with the predetermined shape, and then the covering is connected to the holding element.

9. (new) Process for the manufacture of an article comprising a rigid support element of which a show face is partially covered by a supple covering, the process comprising the following steps:

forming a complex by connecting a face of the covering opposed to a show face to a relatively rigid thermoformable holding element having its own shape and a strength such that it is not substantially deformed under predetermined foaming conditions, in order substantially to maintain the covering in a predetermined shape,

placing the support element and the complex in a foaming mould and, since the support element has a hollow region delimited by a peripheral rim, disposing a docking surface of the covering opposite the peripheral rim,

introducing foam into the mould, between the support element and the complex, under the predetermined conditions, in order to connect the covering and the support element.

10. (new) Process according to claim 9, wherein,
the covering is connected to the holding element and, simultaneously, the holding element is thermoformed, in order to confer on the covering the predetermined shape.

11. (new) Process according to claim 11, wherein, after the holding element is thermoformed, the docking surface of the

covering is placed opposite the peripheral rim of the support element, in the foaming mould.

12. (new) Process according to claim 9, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only locally, at the periphery of the covering.

13. (new) Process according to claim 9, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only at the periphery of the covering.

14. (new) Process according to claim 9, wherein the holding element is manufactured substantially in accordance with the predetermined shape, and then the covering is connected to the holding element.

15. (new) Process according to claim 10, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only locally, at the periphery of the covering.

16. (new) Process according to claim 10, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only at the periphery of the covering.

17. (new) Process according to claim 11, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only locally, at the periphery of the covering.

18. (new) Process according to claim 11, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element only at the periphery of the covering.

19. (new) Process according to claim 1, wherein the covering is connected to the holding element at the periphery of the covering and not in a central portion.